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Message Text

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43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 035431
R 080800Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2064
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2162

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, IR
SUBJ: AFGHAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS

REF: A. STATE 71657
B. TEHRAN 2654

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT. I HAVE A GOOD CONVERSATION APRIL 7 WITH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR DAVOUDI. HE EXPRESSED NONE OF THE CONCERNS OF THE SHAH AS REPORTED IN REF (B). I HAD AN PPPORTUNITY PER REF (A) TO STRESS TO HIM OUR IDENTITY OF INTEREST IN THE STABILITY OF THE REGION AND OUR VIEW THAT IRAN'S INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN CONTRIBUTES TO THAT STABILITY. HE CONCURRED.

2. DAVOUDI TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD WILL DEPART APRIL 27 FOR TEHRAN AND REMAIN IN IRAN 4 OR 5 DAYS. SUBSEQUENTLY I LEARNED FROM DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH THAT THE TRIP MAY START APRIL 26 AND THAT DOUD WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ABDULLAH, COMMERCE MINISTER JALALAR AND PLANNING MINISTER KHORRAM. DAVOUDI SAID THAT THE AFGHANS WANTED A MINIMUM OF FORMALITY DURING THE VISIT BUT OTHERWISE HAD FEW IDEAS FOR DOUD'S SCHEDULE. DAVOUDI WONDERED IF I HAD ANY IDEAS, SAYING HE THOUGHT A MILITARY SHOW MIGHT BE GOOD. I CAUTIONED THAT THE AFGHANS MIGHT THINK A MILITARY SHOW
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WOULD BE INTENDED TO CONVEY A THREATENING MESSAGE AND

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SUGGESTED THE IRANIANS FOCUS ON SUCH THINGS AS NATURAL GAS AND FERTILIZER FACILITIES, THE LITERACY AND HEALTH CORPS AND AGRICULTURE.

3. DAVOUDI'S ASSESSMENT OF PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS WAS THAT THE AFGHANS WOULD NOT PROVOKE THE PAKS TO ESCALATE THE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THEM. HE BELIEVES THAT DAOUD KEEPS THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE ALIVE BECAUSE HE HAS NOTHING ELSE TO GIE THE PUSHTUN TRIBES DAVOUDI MADE THESE COMMENTS BEFORE EITHER OF US HAD HEARD OF THE GOP'S ALLEGED ACTION AGAINST AFGHAN TRANSIT FACILITIES REPORTED IN KABUL 2141.

4. REGARDING IRANIAN AID TO AFGHANISTAN, DAVOUDI SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING MARCH 21 FOR THE SALE OF IRANIAN POL TO AFGHANISTAN HAD BOTH INCREASED THE QUANTITY OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND HAD ESTABLISHED THE PERSIAN GULF PRICE AS THE DELIVERY PRICE AT MESHED, WHICH IN EFFECT MEANS THE GOI PICKS UP THE FREIGHT COST FROM THE GULF TO MESHED. DAVOUDI SAID THAT A FRENCH TEAM HAS COMPLETED A SURVEY OF THE RAILROAD PROJECT TO LINK MESHED AND KABUL, BUT THE AFGHANS WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE FRENCH COST ESTIMATE. DAVOUDI HAD HAD THE ESTIMATE CHECKED WITH THE IRANIAN PLAN ORGANIZATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED THE GOA IT WAS REASONABLE. NEVERTHE LESS THE GOA MIGHT ASK THE INDIANS TO DO AN INDEPENDENT SURVEY. REGARDING THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUGAR PLANTS, DAVOUDI SAID HE WAS AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF AN IRANIAN EXPERT.

5. DAVOUDI ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE IS GREATLY EXPANDING THE IRANIAN CULTURAL PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN THROUGH THE DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND FILMS, AND THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE OFFERED TO AFGHANS IN IRANIAN UNIVERSITIES.

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